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Peres: All PNC members can return

Surprisingly high turnout reported for PA elections

JON IMMANUEL

TURNOUT was high yesterday for elections for president of the Palestinian Authority and the 88-member Palestinian council, with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat predicted winning with 95 percent of the vote.

Hamas scored a setback as more than 85% of the population voted in the Gaza Strip despite calls for a boycott. In the West Bank, where polls closed later, the turnout was estimated at 70-85%.

Unofficial returns also indicated a strong showing for Fatah candidates in the contest for the 88-member council. Final results are to be ready this afternoon.

"This is the foundation stone of the Palestinian state," said Arafat after voting in near perfect weather in Gaza City.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres said the elections showed most Palestinians back the Oslo agreements.

"It's a successful end to parts of the two agreements with the Palestinians," said Peres. "The vote wasn't only to elect the representatives of the Palestinians, but effectively also confirmed that a decisive majority of the Palestinians backs the agreements," he told Channel One.

"Whoever grips knives and bombs is a minority threatening the Palestinian majority as much as us," he said.

Peres spoke last night to Arafat to congratulate him on the elections.

"He welcomed the high voting percentage aside from Jerusalem and Hebron, where he said it was better to have had a low percentage and few problems as opposed to a higher turnout and a greater amount of problems," Peres's of-

fic said.

Arafat's advisers had worried that heavy rain which deluged Gaza on Friday would keep the voter turnout below 60%. They expected 70-75% if the weather turned bright.

"Certainly this surpasses expectations," said Suhan Abu Zayde, a member of the ministerial committee on prisoner releases, running as a Fatah candidate in North Gaza.

Hamas officials were nonchalant about the results, claiming they had not demanded a boycott. "Everybody was free to do what he wanted from both sides. This will not hurt the Islamic Movement," said Sayed Abu Musameh, who was released from jail last month to participate in talks with the PA in Cairo.

Hamas issued an "internal memorandum" in Gaza City yesterday morning calling on those supporters who had decided to vote to mark X by the names of nine candidates. Gaza voters were entitled to vote for 12. Among the names was Riad Zaanoun, the PA health minister, and Fakri Shakurah, both running for Fatah.

Khaled Hindi and Ismail Han-iyeh, both Hamas leaders who were going to run as independents before being pressured to withdraw by Hamas elements abroad, also voted yesterday.

The polling stations opened at 7 a.m. and by 3 p.m. 70% had voted in Gaza and 80% in Jericho, which have been under Palestinian authority for the past 18 months. In other West Bank areas voting was slow, with 70% in Tubas and Salbit, 65% in Ramallah, Tulkarm and Kalqilya.

(Continued on Page 2)



A Palestinian policeman helps a young mother cast her ballot yesterday at a Hebron polling site. (Reuters)

ALL members of the Palestinian National Council will be allowed into the PA-controlled areas for discussions on changing the Palestinian Covenant, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said last night.

Peres told Israel Radio that in the last few weeks, the Palestinian Authority had made a strong effort to fight terror.

Mahmoud Abbas, the PLO elections coordinator, told Reuters: "The Israeli government has allowed all PNC members to be given permanent residency in Palestinian areas. We asked for this a long time ago and now they have agreed."

Maj.-Gen. Oren Shahor, coordinator for the territories, also said they could return.

"As a concept the intention is that people also from the autonomous areas and be able to enter. We will deal with the matter in coming days," said Shahor.

PNC members include some of the leading terrorist leaders, such as Nayef Hawatmeb, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, George Habbash, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Abu Abbas, head of the Palestine Liberation Front.

It was unclear whether any of the three would move to Palestinian-ruled areas, if given the choice.

Changing the Palestinian Charter was high on the agenda of both Israelis and Palestinians yesterday.

"You do not change the constitution, you only add amendments," P.L.O. Chairman Yasser Arafat said Friday, comparing the Palestinian Charter to the American Constitution.

Arafat, who is committed to canceling the segments of the charter which refer to the illegality of a Jewish state, told a group of American Peace Now activists in Gaza that, in effect, the charter no longer has any validity, because of the agreements which had been reached with Israel.

Arafat said these agreements were amendments to the charter. "We had other amendments accepted by the central council, like the [September 1993] Oslo agreement," he said.

Under the Oslo 2 accord of September 1995, Arafat must change the 1968 covenant within two months of convening the newly elected Palestinian council.

Arafat said he had signed a decree on Tuesday that "within four weeks the council will meet." This means the Palestinian National Council should meet by April 20 to change its charter.

Last night Peres said he expects Arafat to keep the promise to change the covenant.

"I expect that he will do his part to fulfill the agreement between us and him. He needs two months from the establishment of the elected Palestinian council to remove from the Palestinian charter those clauses which call for harming or destroying Israel," Peres said on Channel 1.

He said Israel has several ways of responding if Arafat fails to keep his promise.

"We have enough options in hand - and he knows that - in order to stop other things. This year a number of other things are supposed to be done," Peres said.

"We are supposed to redeploy in Hebron, the negotiations must begin on the final status, the additional redeployment must be carried out, and there must be established a system of daily and economic relations. I don't believe he wants to break up all these things," Peres said.

(Continued on Page 2)

Observers blast 'police intimidation' in Jerusalem

BILL HUTMAN

PALESTINIAN leaders and international observers, including former US president Jimmy Carter, sharply attacked Israel yesterday for what they charged was the "intimidating police presence" near Jerusalem polling stations.

"I don't think there is any doubt they [the police] are doing everything they can to intimidate the voters," Carter, who is leading a team of international observers, told the Associated Press.

By early afternoon, Palestinian officials were reporting a low turnout in the Jerusalem district, and charged this was because police were making it difficult to get to the five post offices being used as polling stations.

"This place looks more like an army base than a place people are voting," said Faisal Hussein, the senior PLO official in Jerusalem, on a visit to the main polling station at the Salah a-

Din Road post office.

Dozens of policemen stood guard outside the building, checking the IDs of anyone who approached. Policemen and border policemen also stood guard on the roofs of surrounding buildings and the nearby Old City wall.

Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Aryeh Amit strongly denied the allegation of police interference. "I wish we could have this many policemen in Jerusalem every day to keep the peace," he said.

"Police are here in large numbers to ensure that neither Israeli nor Palestinian extremists interfere with the voting," Amit said.

Police sources attributed the apparent low turnout at least in part to mixups within the Central Election Committee over where people were supposed to vote.

An Old City resident, Mohammed Salah, said he went to the Salah a-Din post office in the morning to vote, with a form

from the CEC saying that was where he should vote, but when he got there he was turned away by Palestinian officials.

"They told me my name wasn't on their lists for the Salah a-Din polling station and I needed to go to the Beit Hanina station to vote," Salah, 34, said. But at Beit Hanina, Palestinian officials also could not find his name.

Police also noted that fewer than 10 percent of registered voters in the Jerusalem district were to go to polling stations within the city limits, and the vast majority to stations in the territories, which are beyond police control.

A security source said Hamas was behind a leaflet distributed in Jerusalem yesterday calling for Palestinians not to vote, because the Palestinian security prisoners are still being held by Israel.

At around 2 p.m., Hussein made a public appeal on Palestin-

ian Radio for Jerusalem voters to go to the polls, saying a low turnout would deal a blow to Palestinian claims to Jerusalem.

Carter attacked the use by police of video cameras to film the crowds in front of the polling stations in eastern Jerusalem.

Amit, however, said such filming is routine at events where the potential is great for unrest or attack and is used as a tool to help police investigators.

A police spokesman said 51 Jews and Arabs were detained during the day for stone-throwing, incitement, and disturbing the peace.

In the afternoon, only a handful of minor disturbances were reported by police in eastern Jerusalem. Roads near polling stations were closed, including Salah a-Din and Sultan Suleiman, the major thoroughfares by the Old City.

Police units were stationed at major intersections in eastern Jerusalem and roadblocks set up at

various points.

Two Jewish youths were detained after they allegedly threw a tear gas canister into an Arab store just inside Jaffa Gate, police said. There were no injuries or damage, according to police.

Another Jewish youth was arrested for distributing pamphlets aimed at scaring Palestinians away from voting. These stated they would lose their rights as Jerusalem residents if they did so, which Israeli officials strongly deny.

Near the Beit Hanina post office polling station, two Arab youths were arrested for allegedly throwing stones at policemen there.

Police stopped Jibril Rajoub, Palestinian Preventive Security chief in Jericho, at a checkpoint near the Salah a-Din post office and ordered to leave the city, on the grounds he had agreed to stay away from the polling stations so as not to provoke unrest. Police said Rajoub left without incident.

Kiryat Arba girl stabbed in Hebron

A JEWISH girl was stabbed in the back and lightly wounded by an Arab youth yesterday afternoon in the Hebron market. Orital Zarviv, 14, of Kiryat Arba, was admitted in satisfactory condition to Hadassah-University Hospital, in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem.

Her alleged attacker, Hashem Osman, 16, of Hebron, tried to run away but was chased down and caught by two young Kiryat Arba residents who were accompanying Zarviv.

Hebron district police chief Asst.-Cmdr. Danny Arviv noted yesterday that "Jews and Arabs live mixed together in Hebron and there is constant friction." Arviv said election day had otherwise passed peacefully in the city.

The Zarviv family experienced a similar incident several years ago, when Orital's father was stabbed and seriously wounded by a Palestinian assailant.

On Levy

Peres: Israel 'going for broke' in talks with Syria

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

PRIME Minister Shimon Peres said Israel is "going for broke" in the peace talks with Syria, saying the aim was to achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

"Listen, we have to take a chance. Those who don't dare are not realists. We are going for broke," he said on Israel Radio Friday.

Minister Yossi Beilin said there were "positive changes"

at the last round of talks at the Wye Plantation in Maryland, but he was still skeptical about whether Syrian President Hafez Assad had really decided to make peace.

"Without a breakthrough on the substantive issues and without negotiations at a much more rapid pace, we will not be able to achieve peace this year," he said.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, told *Yediot Aharonot* that his last visit to Damascus earlier this month convinced him that Syrian President Hafez Assad was committed to getting an accord.

"More than ever before, at my last meeting with him, in the wake of what he said, I reached the conclusion that the man is really developing a vision of peace between Israel and Syria," he said.

Christopher also said Assad had also grasped the importance of establishing full diplomatic and economic ties with Israel, which has been Israel's key demand in exchange for returning the Golan Heights.

"Two states living at peace, side by side. A fabric of economic relations between Israel and Syria. More and more. Assad sees the significance of these relations for the Syrians," Christopher said.

Israel, Tunisia to announce formal ties

HILLEL KUTTLER and BATSHEVA TSUR

ISRAEL and Tunisia will announce the establishment of diplomatic ties in Washington tomorrow, a senior Clinton administration official said Friday.

The announcement will come following a State Department luncheon meeting held by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Foreign Minister Ehud Barak and his Tunisian counterpart Habib Benyahia.

"I think we'll have a fairly significant announcement to come out of [the meeting] in terms of diplomatic relations," the official said.

The countries will establish interest sections in Tel Aviv and Tunis, he said. The two countries had been scheduled to establish lower level economic offices, but Tunis delayed the move due to pressure from other Arab states.

"It's gone beyond that," the official said. "It'll go directly to interest sections; there won't be an intermediate step."

The move was precipitated both by continued bilateral discussions on the matter, as well as by the US's efforts, which "clearly had encouraged movement on this for some time," he said.

The US expects the move to encourage other Arab states to formalize relations with Israel, the official said.

"I think clearly with each such step undertaken by Arab states with Israel, the arguments against normalization with Israel are diminished. I think it has repercussions."

"We are hopeful that states in North Africa, the [Persian] Gulf, would come around. Qatar and Oman, maybe. Qatar and Oman, as is known, have had a dialogue [with Israel]. We hope further steps could be taken."

Tunisia becomes only the second Arab state, after Morocco, to have ties with Israel in the absence of a

formal agreement.

The US official said it was "unlikely" that Saudi Arabia would join other Gulf states in establishing relations with Israel until an Israeli-Syrian peace deal was reached.

Benyahia and then-foreign minister Shimon Peres met several times in recent years during visits to New York and Washington, during which they discussed establishing diplomatic relations.

Barak is also scheduled to meet tomorrow with Defense Secretary William Perry and national security adviser Anthony Lake.

The latter meeting will also likely include a short discussion with President Clinton, Israeli officials said.

On Friday, Barak arrived for his first visit in Morocco, where he stayed at the royal guest house, normally reserved for heads of state.

Last night, Barak conferred with King Hassan for more than an hour. They were joined half way through the meeting by Moroccan Prime Minister Abdelatif Filali. They discussed the peace process at length, and observers said the presence of the prime minister gave the talks a more official and overt nature.

On the issue of the Palestinian elections Barak stressed that this was an important stage in the process. It indicated that Israel is standing by its obligations, Barak said, and the Israeli government expected the same from the Palestinians particularly with regard to their commitments on terrorism and the changing of the Palestinian Covenant.

Morocco, Barak added, could continue to have a leading role in advancing the process and would undoubtedly be a key factor in bringing about a comprehensive peace. Barak leaves Morocco today for New York.

Three Hamas terrorists killed in clash with soldiers near Jenin

ON LEVY

THREE Hamas terrorists were killed Friday afternoon in a clash with IDF soldiers near the Jalama checkpoint at the entrance to Jenin.

In the clash, one soldier was lightly wounded in the leg. The IDF and the Palestinian Police are investigating the incident. Palestinian sources said it cast a shadow over the Palestinian elections, resulting in a low turnout in Jenin.

The clash occurred around 5 p.m., when a car carrying the three Palestinians reached the checkpoint and the soldiers signaled to the driver to stop.

Instead he accelerated, as one of the terrorists stuck the barrel of his Kalashnikov rifle out the window and fired at the soldiers, wounding one of them.

Other soldiers fired at the car, killing the three occupants. They were identified as Ibrahim Salam Jeridat, 21, Tarak Mansour, 23, and Alam Abu Ada, 23, all Hamas members from Jenin.

Senior military sources said the three had planned to attack the soldiers and were the first to open fire, with the soldiers responding according to orders.

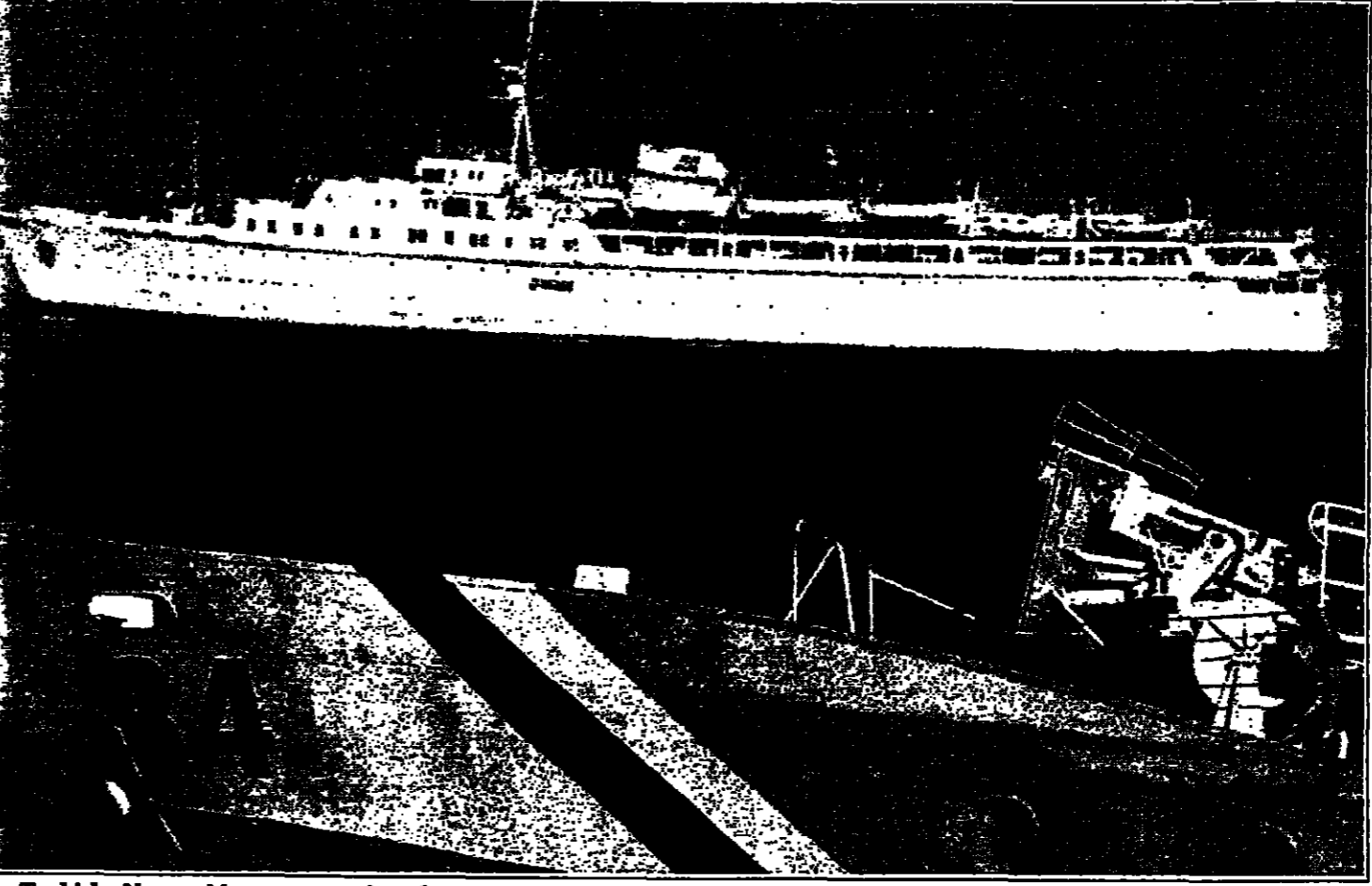
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TRUDE DOTAN
on
Delir el-Balah: A Lost Egyptian Outpost in Gaza
In English - Today, January 21, 1996, 3:00 p.m.

German Jews upset by change in memorial day

BONN (Reuters) - Some German Jews yesterday indicated disappointment that parliament moved forward its special session to mark Germany's first Memorial Day for the Victims of Nazism.

tions the horrors of the Third Reich and said January 27 should be a day of reflection to help Germans avoid repeating the crimes of the past.



A Turkish Navy ship accompanies the ferry 'Avrasya,' which was seized by pro-Chechen gunmen along with 200 passengers and crew.

Villagers sift through ruins after Russian-Chechen hostage battle

VILLAGERS returned to the wreckage of their homes in Pervomaiskoye yesterday to find bloated corpses still lying in the streets from this week's battle between Chechen hostage-takers and Russian troops.

News agencies PERVOMAISSKOYE, Russia "Isn't Dagestan Russia too," she said, voicing the suspicion of many in the southern Russian republic that Moscow would not have used such force in Russia itself.

hail Barsukov said in Moscow the tough action had been necessary to prevent a wave of terrorism and that his men would not hesitate to use force in any future hostage-seizure by the separatist fighters.

Demonstrators believe Luebeck fire was murder

LUEBECK (AP) - About 3,000 demonstrators gathered in the city's main square yesterday to remember the 10 immigrants killed in a suspicious blaze and protest anti-foreigner sentiments in Germany.

house that killed two Turkish women and three girls. "Why is it that these terrible things only happen where foreigners live?" asked Mattata Midun, a Zairian who has lived in Germany six years.

US snow meltdown causes massive floods

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Flooding from record-breaking snowpack and heavy rains caused the evacuation yesterday of up to 100,000 people in Pennsylvania's Wyoming Valley, and in the Midwest new blizzard conditions sent temperatures plummeting to below zero.

Kelly Freed, an emergency spokeswoman in Wyoming County to the north, said the National Guard had been called in to assist with rescue operations.

the Monongahela and the Allegheny Rivers join to form the Ohio, was already under water, he said, including major roads and widespread localized evacuations.

Hollywood film producer Don Simpson found dead

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Don Simpson, one of the flashiest and most extravagant producers in Hollywood and the driving force behind the blockbusters Top Gun and Beverly Hills Cop, was found dead, police said yesterday.

ters, Don was a true original. There will never be another like him," Bruckheimer said in a statement.

Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew undergoes heart treatment

SINGAPORE (Reuters) - Singapore's most prominent statesman, Lee Kuan Yew, underwent successful hospital treatment yesterday to open up a narrowed coronary artery, a government statement said.

It also said the functioning of 72-year-old Lee's heart was completely normal with no evidence of muscle damage.

STATE OF ISRAEL Ministry of Energy and Infrastructure Electricity Administration January 1, 1996 Notice pursuant to the Electricity Utilities Order WAYLEAVES

NATO to guard suspected mass graves

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - NATO will send troops to guard suspected mass graves where Bosnian Serbs are accused of hiding the bodies of thousands of murdered Muslims and Croats, peacekeeping sources said yesterday.

The deployment could take place within days now that NATO has achieved the separation of the former warring sides along most of the 1,000-km front line dividing Serb and Muslim-Croat territory in Bosnia.

THE ISRAELI PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Concert program for 21-27.1 Jerzy Semkow, conductor Susanna Portetsky, soprano Yossi Arnehim, clarinet Tomer Lev, pianist

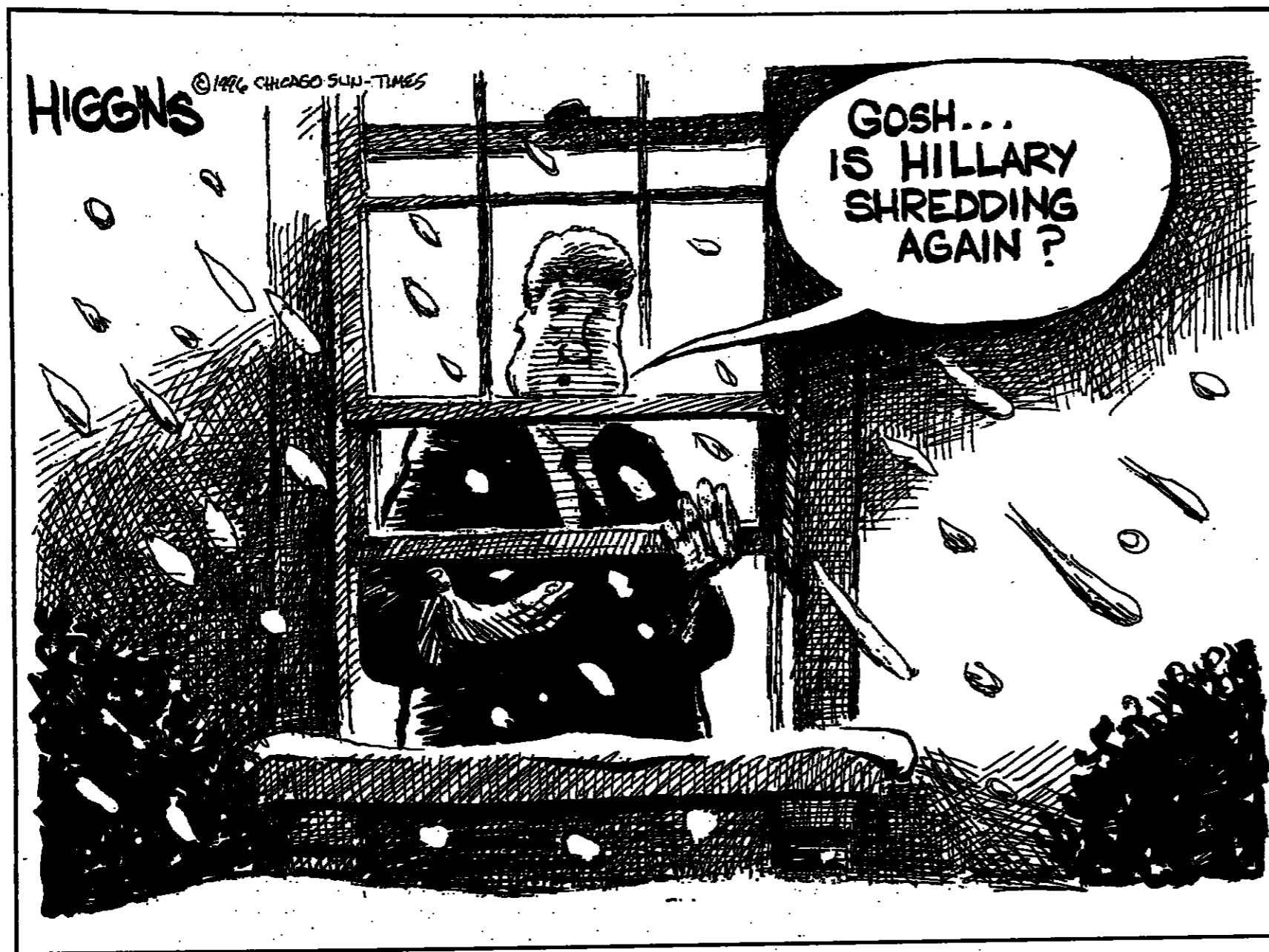
Border Crossings AMERICAN INTERACTIONS WITH ISRAELIS by Lucy Shaker and David Kurz. JP Price NIS 79 incl. VAT, p. & p. In Israel

BORDER CROSSINGS - American Interactions with Israelis Clash of West and Middle East, secular and religious, challenges to authority, breaching of taboos, self-confidence expressed in a forceful communication style.

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AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, January 21, 1996



Clinton's accuser considers testifying

By Robert Novak

Senate investigators speculate former Little Rock Municipal Judge David Hale, the only person who has publicly accused President Clinton of wrongdoing in the Whitewater affair, will testify before Sen. Alfonse D'Amato's special committee.

It is strictly up to Hale. He has pleaded guilty to two counts of fraud and has been awaiting sentence since March, 1994, while talking to Special Counsel Kenneth Starr and the Whitewater grand jury. He is under no obligation to testify before the D'Amato committee.

Hale has claimed that Clinton, as governor of Arkansas, pressured him to make an illegal government-backed \$300,000 loan to Clinton's Whitewater partner Susan McDougal.

DEMOCRATS SPLIT

High-ranking House Democrats foresee a possible budget solution that would split their party leaders into two camps. Although Minority Leader Richard Gephardt and Minority Whip David Bonior likely would oppose a compromise, their leadership team is not solidly behind them.

House Democratic Caucus Chairman Vic Fazio of California and Chief Deputy Whips Bill Richardson of New Mexico and Chet Edwards of Texas are eager for a budget compromise, even if it is opposed by the party's liberals.

Expected to back Gephardt and Bonior would be Caucus Vice Chairman Barbara Kennelly of Connecticut and Chief Deputy Whips John Lewis of Georgia and Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut.

OREGON BLUNDER

A late independent expenditure by the Teamsters union in behalf of Democratic Rep. Ron Wyden may cost Democrats the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by the forced resignation of Republican Sen. Bob Packwood and privately given up for lost by national GOP leaders.

A radio advertisement accuses the Republican candidate, state Senate President Gordon Smith, of responsibility for the death of a 14-year-old boy killed at his plant. The boy's father was the supervisor of the work done by his son and has protested that the attack against Smith is unfair.

The prospect that the commercial could backfire against Wyden was enhanced last week when the usually liberal Portland Oregonian endorsed Smith, who is much more conservative than winning Oregon candidates. The editorial attacked "negative advertising, personal attacks and bold distortion of the public record by both sides" but did not single out the Teamsters commercial.

TOUGH RUSSIAN

Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott's statement of welcome for Russian President Boris Yeltsin's selection of hard-liner Yevgeny Primakov as foreign minister has been greeted with ridicule by diplomats across Europe. They see the appointment as a sign of Yeltsin's embrace of extreme nationalism.

Talbott, reflecting the Clinton administration's desire to put Yeltsin in the best light, hailed Primakov's appointment on grounds that he was a friend of Mikhail Gorbachev. In fact, Primakov is the former boss of the KGB's foreign department and Russia's foremost student of Stalinist hatchet man Lavrenty Beria.

A brilliant intellectual, Primakov wrote a Ph.D. thesis reflecting his admiration of Beria's use of power as Stalin's secret police boss. In August, 1993, with Yeltsin uncertain about NATO expansion, Primakov pressured him to fight it. As foreign minister, his influence will escalate quickly as he pursues his aim of reducing U.S. world influence and restoring Russia's empire.

COMEBACK PETE

Since terminating his disastrous campaign for president, California Gov. Pete Wilson has taken significant strides toward mending fences with his state's Republican Party and conservatives in general.

The governor's relations with GOP stalwarts and the California right deteriorated from the moment of Wilson's election to a first term in 1990 and hit bottom when he decided to temporarily abandon Sacramento and run for president. But since dropping out of the presidential race, Wilson has devoted his energies to the embattled anti-affirmative action initiative to be voted on by the state's voters in November.

The coolness between Wilson and Republican State Chairman John Herrington has been replaced by relative warmth, thanks to Wilson's efforts in behalf of the initiative. Herrington had made no secret of his unhappiness with Wilson's presidential venture.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

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Flat tax

Trying to simplify the issue

By Matthew Miller

It's tempting to dismiss the Kemp Commission's coming call for a flat tax as the scary resurrection of supply side propaganda, a malevolent scheme to transfer billions to the rich at the expense of middle-class Americans and a newly exploding deficit. But we'll get to that.

First, it's only fair to assess the flat tax on its merits. The Kemp group's expected endorsement, together with Steve Forbes's gentlemanly resolve to give the idea, as he might give his daughter, the best coming-out party money can buy, assures that the flat tax will get a hearing. What are we to make of it?

The Kemp report will steer clear of specifics, to avoid saddling Bob Dole with a target Democrats could shoot at through November. But the proposal being pushed by Forbes and House Majority Leader Dick Armey is target enough. It replaces today's personal income tax, whose brackets range from 15 to 39.6 percent, with a single, flat rate of 17 percent. It offers generous standard deductions for individuals and dependents, which take a family of four earning up to \$36,000 off the rolls entirely. At the same time, itemized deductions — such as favorites for mortgage interest, charitable contributions and state and local taxes — are eliminated. All capital gains, interest and dividend income become fully tax-exempt; the estate tax is scrapped as well.

Does any of this make any sense? The big goals Kemp, Forbes et al say they're after might be dubbed the three S's: simplicity, savings and special interests. Take them in turn.

Simplicity. You can hardly change the channel these days without seeing a GOP hopeful wave a postcard-size tax return while admiring crowds swoon at the notion of how easy it will be, under a flat tax, to do their taxes. This campaign tableau is misleading. Hating the IRS is a patriotic duty, as seasonal, and harmless, as the seventh-inning stretch. But for most Americans, paying taxes, while unpleasant, is not actually very complicated. More than 70 percent use the standard deduction. Twenty million filers use 1040 "EZ" forms that are almost, well, postcard-like: this year they'll be able to file via a 10-minute phone call. Though Steve Forbes says the 30 percent who itemize find it an "absolute hor-

ror," it takes an odd fetish to run for president mainly to ease the pain of better-off Americans whose cost in time or tax advice is a fraction of the money they're saving.

Business actually bears the cost of complexity in our tax code, accounting for the vast bulk of the infamous 5.4 billion man-hours that go into tax preparation each year. No doubt there's a case for simplification here, but we're kidding ourselves if we think that in a complicated economy business accounting won't be harder than postcard math. In any event, disingenuously dressing up business relief as a "populist" initiative isn't the image flat-taxers hope to project.

When pressed on the simplicity issue, Forbes says "the people" are really cheering the generous exemptions his plan offers, which roughly double those under current law. If so, they're cheering an illusion. Those exemptions, plus the 17 percent rate, explain why Treasury estimates that the proposal leaves a gaping \$140 billion (at least) revenue hole versus today's tax code. Fixing this so the deficit won't launch into orbit means halving the exemptions, or raising the single rate to somewhere in the low 20s. Combined with the flat tax's fine print, under which the Earned Income Tax Credit is scrapped and employees pay tax on their health benefits, most people earning below \$200,000 lose big.

Savings. A supply-side axiom holds that lowering the after-tax return on savings and investment gives you more of this essential fuel for economic growth. Let's say that's right (though it's a matter of debate). Flat-taxers still don't say how much more. Maybe there's a reason. In the 1980s, lower marginal tax rates were accompanied by a mysterious decline in savings as a share of GDP. Today, economists who aren't flat tax partisans agree it might increase private savings, at best, by 1 percent of GDP yearly. While every little bit helps, that's hardly the kind of spur to growth that "optimistic" supply-side rhetoric leads you to expect. (Bill Clinton's 1993 deficit reduction package, by comparison, now adds about 2 percent of GDP yearly to national savings.) Why would savings rise so little? According to Bill Gale of the Brookings Institution, partly because half of private savings — via pensions, 401(k)s, Keough plans and most IRAs — already gets the tax-favored treatment a flat tax would offer.

Special interests. Yes, today's tax code is a stomping ground for lobbyists. But — surprise! — tomorrow's will be, too. Just as the heralded 1986 tax reforms failed to banish special interests from the trough, a flat tax won't either. Brookings' Gale sees a booming business for lawyers and lobbyists ahead. Take one example. Interest income is not taxable to corporations under a flat tax; they'll thus maneuver, legislatively and via structured transactions, to classify cash inflows as "interest."

If it can't deliver on its declared goals, the flat tax succeeds impressively at one thing: it lowers taxes on wealthier Americans for whom earnings on capital are a higher proportion of income, and raises taxes on just about everybody else. Maybe I'm too blinded by envy to see that what this country really needs is a big tax cut for Steve Forbes and a big tax increase for his maid, who between payroll and "flat" taxes will fork over 30 percent. And this isn't "class warfare," it's a fact. The flat tax's original authors, Robert Hall and Alvin Rabushka, admit as much. The GOP's new addition to the flat tax is yet another instance of the ancient truth of electoral coalitions. Republicans give tax cuts; Democrats give "programs." Same currency, different voters.

Is there any way the GOP can rescue this proposal from being just flat unfair? Jerry Brown, 1992's flat-taxer, may have the answer. Brown says the flat tax was never his full vision, but a piece of a "larger agenda" in which a flat tax throws our "profound crisis of inequality" into starker relief, paving the way for a wealth tax to address the progressivity question directly. Forget for the moment that Brown didn't talk this way in '92; people evolve, especially in California. Almost a dozen European countries have taxes on wealth. Even if the first \$250,000 in net worth is exempt (leaving just a handful of voters affected), a modest wealth tax with marginal rates of 0.05 to 0.3 percent would raise \$40-50 billion yearly, and go a long way toward remedying the flat tax's perceived injustice.

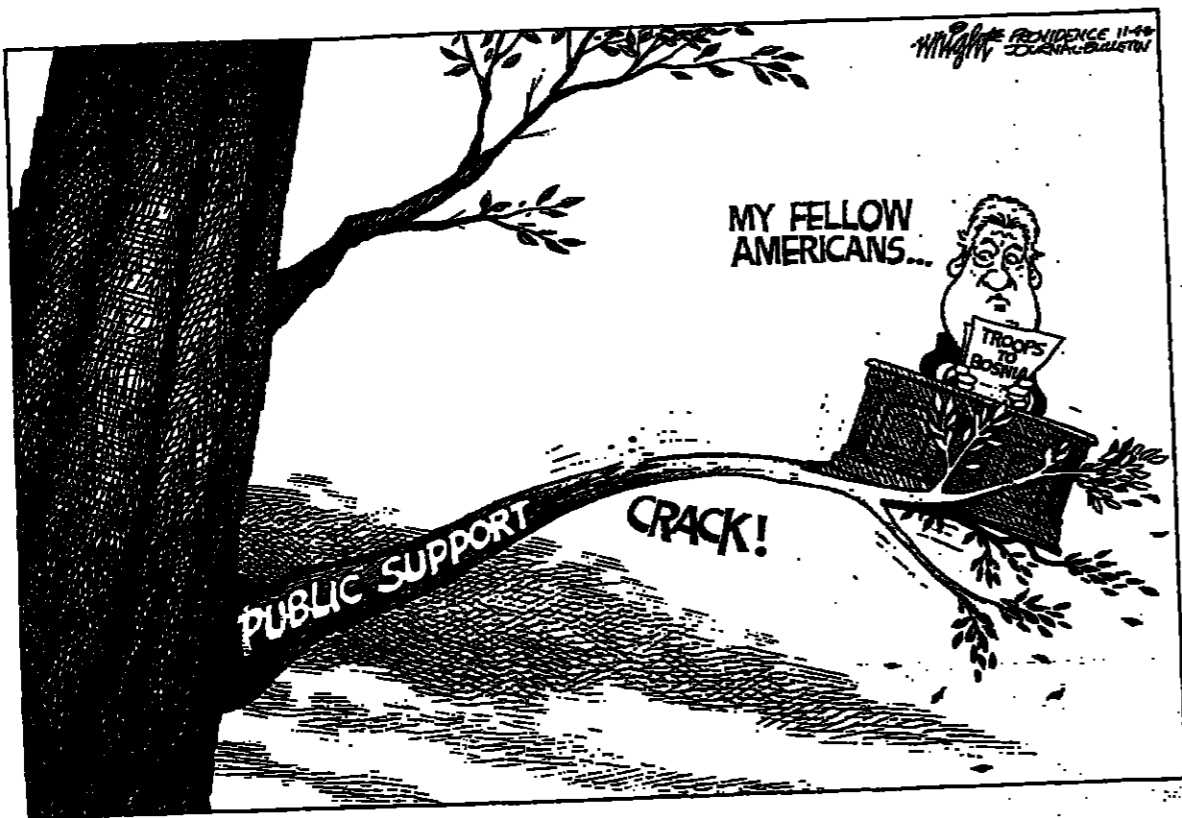
What about it, "Steve"?

(Matthew Miller is economics editor of The New Republic.)

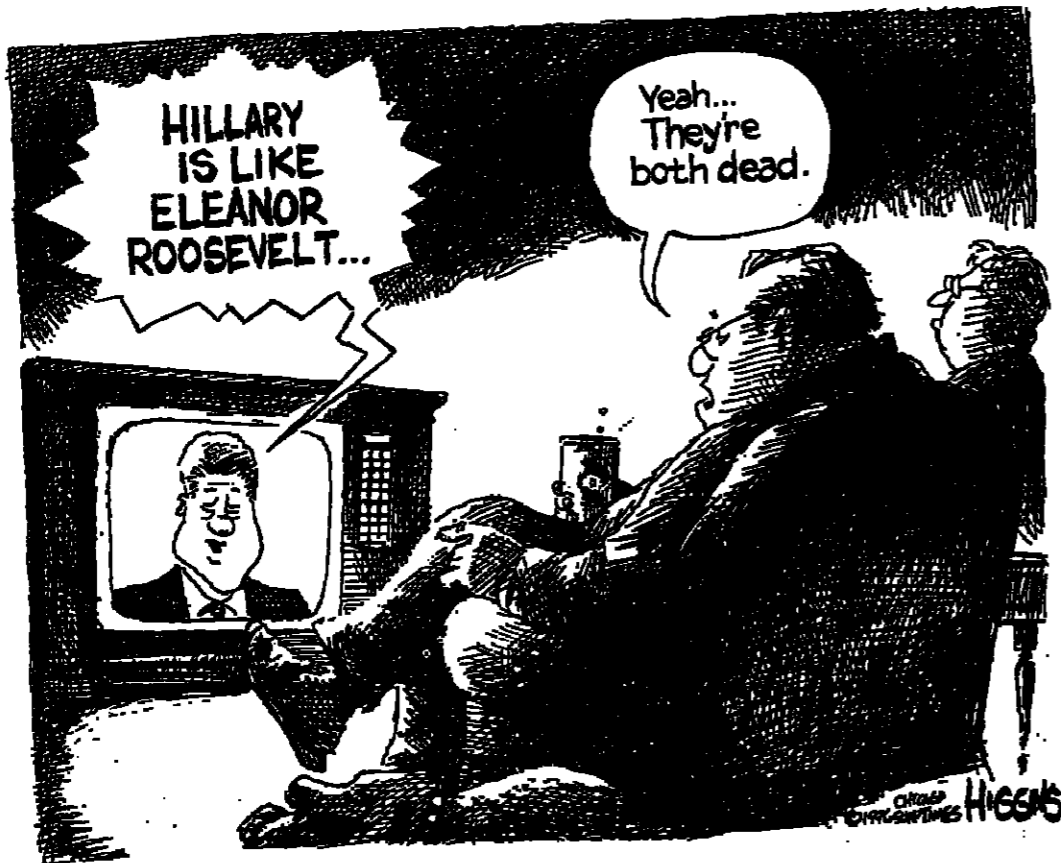
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EDITORIAL CARTOONS

BELLEVILLE/STRAUBER
11/17/96



"THE BAD NEWS IS THEY WANNA TRY US AS WAR CRIMINALS... THE GOOD NEWS IS THEY'RE GONNA TRY US IN L.A...."



Election mudslinging starts early this year

BY MICHAEL CROWLEY

Primary season is upon us in the United States, and on the airwaves in New Hampshire and Iowa, things have taken rather a nasty turn. "Since 1982 Bob Dole has voted for 16 tax increases.... Bob Dole voted to increase income taxes. Taxes on phones, gas, even Social Security...." "Million-dollar pensions for Congress paid for by taxpayers?... Bob Dole says 'Yes....'"

A Gramm attack ad? A Buchanan low blow? No, these are the ads of the blow-dried, good-guy millionaire, Steve Forbes, who's suddenly doing remarkably well. Forbes's early ads, in which he grins like a weenie while sketching out his flat tax, have suddenly given way to a wave of attack spots, nailing both Dole and Gramm as sinister tax-raising insiders, in the ominous tones of a "Frontline" documentary.

This flurry of punches from a neophyte candidate has stunned his opponents. But it comes as little surprise to those familiar with Forbes's circle of advisers. Campaign pros agree that Forbes's ads bear the fingerprints of two staunchly conservative North Carolina campaign veterans who convinced Jesse Helms to run for Senate and then raised millions for all his campaigns, and who boosted the presidential ambitions of Pat Buchanan and Pat Robertson. Their storied record includes the infamous Helms campaign "hands" ad, showing white hands crumpling a rejection letter for a "quota job" awarded to a black applicant.

Notorious in the world of campaign operatives, fixtures in deep-fried conservative circles, Tom Ellis and Carter Wrenn are masters of the inflammatory campaign. Forbes's rise may have less to do with his sunny Reaganism than with the dark side of his newest campaign opportunities. Forbes met Ellis and Wrenn through mutual-buddy and Reader's Digest editor Ken Tomlinson, and from the beginning, the Forbes campaign has tried to downplay their role. But the explanations fall flat. Ellis is described as an "unpaid volunteer" who occasionally drops a note, but before he stopped talking to the press, he was a verbose Forbes spokesman, familiar with details of the campaign's marketing, advertising and mass mailings. Wrenn moved to New Jersey to run the campaign headquarters in

Bedminster where, Forbes's aides implausibly suggest, he oversees the fax machine and "makes sure the lights are on." "To have a guy like [Wrenn] be the administrator of your fax machines is sort of like getting Michael Jordan to teach junior high school students to play basketball," says political consultant Gary Pearce, who faced off against Wrenn and Ellis in a 1984 Senate campaign against Helms. Ellis himself told The Raleigh Triangle Business Journal this fall that campaign manager Bill Dal Col is the "titular head, I guess, but as far as the nuts and bolts of the campaign, Carter is doing it all."

Sure enough, Forbes's menacing ads are straight out of the Wrenn-Ellis mold. "I recognize the product, and they're doing the ads," says Charlie Black, Gramm's chief strategist. "Almost like the mark of Zorro," says North Carolina politico Harrison Hickman.

Ellis and Wrenn's history is one reason for the Forbes campaign to keep them under wraps. Even Helms has stopped speaking with his erstwhile promoters, claiming they abused his good name for their fund-raising (nevertheless, Helms introduced Forbes at a North Carolina rally last June as "Mr. President"). "They cleaned our clocks," says Pearce. "A lot of people will complain about the racial appeals in their ads, but they win. They play to win."

Since the 1970s, the National Congressional Club (now called the Conservative Club), a fund-raising machine founded and directed by both Wrenn and Ellis, roped in almost \$50 million for Helms's campaigns and helped elect several other hardened North Carolina conservatives in the Helms mold such as the state's acerbic junior senator, Lauch Faircloth. Under Ellis and Wrenn's guidance, the Congressional Club routinely hammered away at the politics of division, neatly summed up by Wrenn in 1990 when he said that "What you have opposing Helms is another coalition of homosexuals and artists and pacifists and every other left-wing group."

Further back in the past, the politics get uglier. Ellis, a former segregationist, drove away support from Gerald Ford in 1976 by promoting the idea that Ford was planning to choose a black running mate; and he served as director of the Pioneer Fund, a group that has long funded research into

theories that whites are genetically superior to blacks.

Ellis's wacky racial views were the cause of a major media embarrassment for Ronald Reagan in 1983. When Reagan appointed him to the Board for International Broadcasting, on which Forbes himself would later serve, Democratic Senators Joe Biden and Paul Tsongas lit into him. Ellis was forced to admit to cozy relations with the apartheid government of South Africa (whose policies he said he didn't wish to "second-guess"); to his handbills about Ford's alleged running mate; and to his directorship in the 1970s of the Pioneer Fund, whose charter at the time discussed "racial betterment." Chastened, Reagan withdrew the nomination, saying he'd been made to seem "prejudiced, if not an outright bigot."

In appearance Wrenn makes an obese contrast to his thin, septuagenarian partner, but in ideology he is much the same. When he masterminded Helms's 1990 race against Harvey Gantt, the campaign sent out a 1990 mailing to 125,000 mostly black North Carolinians warning they could be prosecuted for going to the polls on Election Day.

So what is Forbes doing with these guys? The candidate stresses that he sets the direction for the campaign, but asked last week about Wrenn and Ellis, he had nothing to say about their race-baiting past.

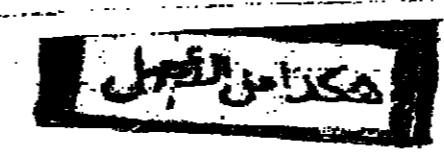
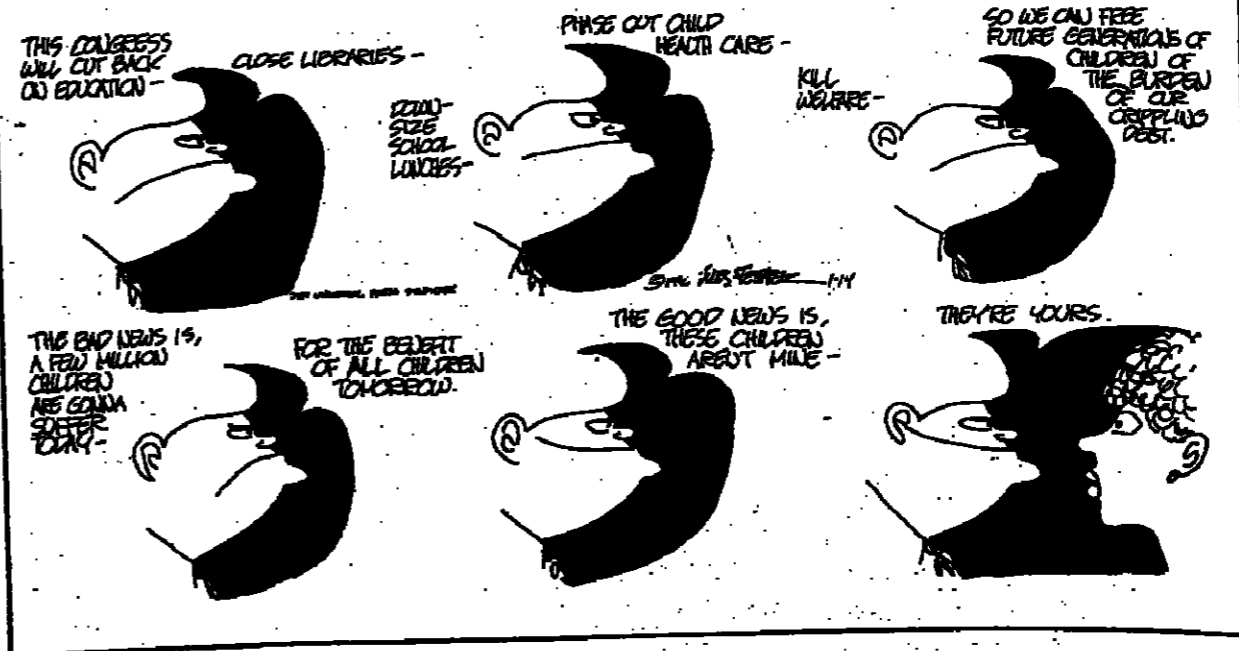
"There's a hard edge to them," explains Jude Wanniski, who helped persuade Forbes to run. "Just as a president has a State Department that's diplomatic, he has a Defense Department that hits." In other words, Forbes is quite happy with the value-free game of politics he assails his insider opponents for playing. And so far, it's working.

Michael Crowley is a reporter for The New Republic.

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WHY DON'T THEY HAVE A SUPER BOWL FOR PEG LEG BALL?

by Wiley

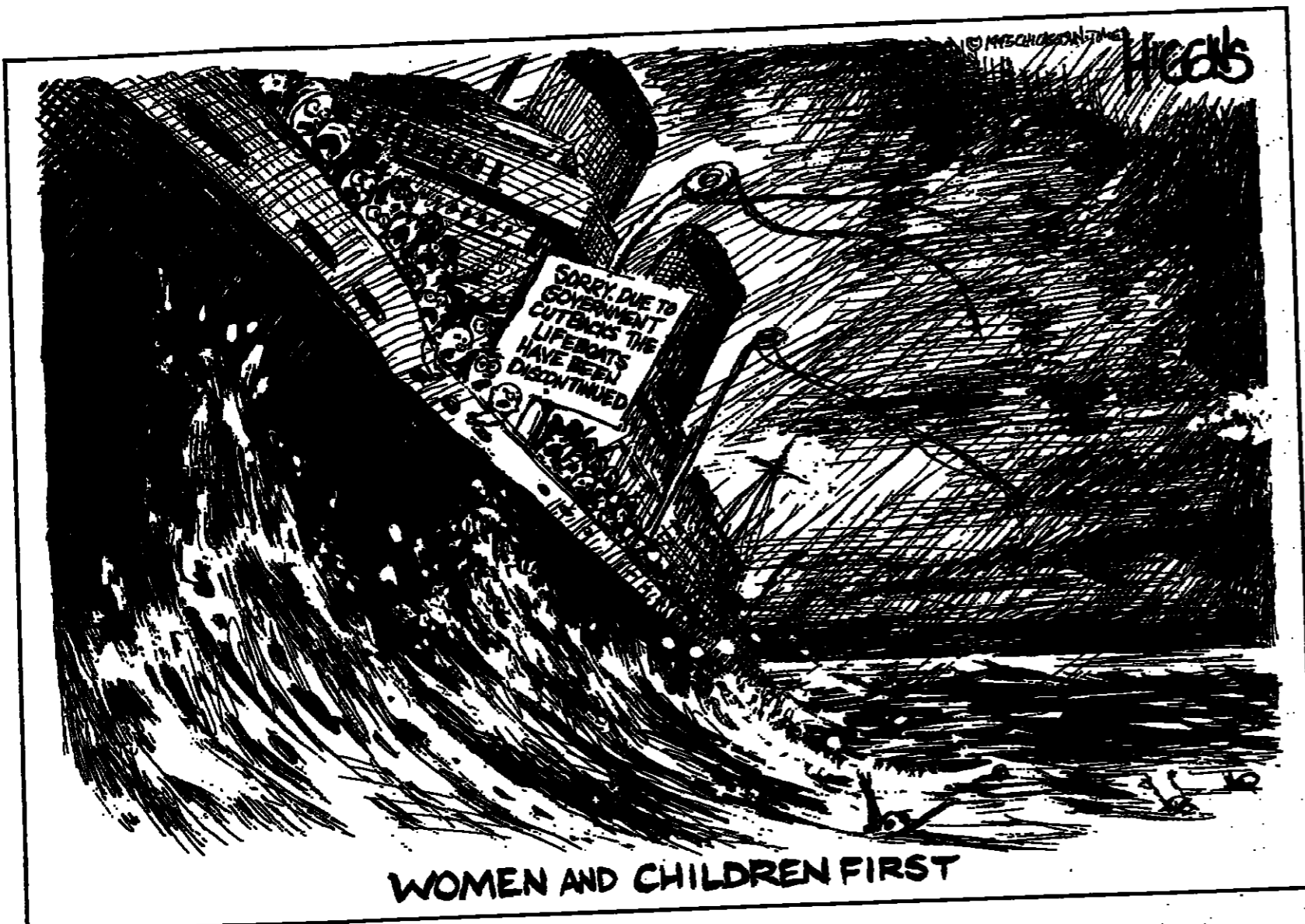
WHOEVER INVENTED THE FOOTBALL WAS PROBABLY BUSY AT WORK

TRYING TO CREATE A MUCH ROUNDER BALL THAT IMPOLODED AND THEN WENT BERSERK

THUS, WHEN HE FOUND IT TOO AWKWARD FOR SOCCER AND MUCH TOO PLEBIAN FOR CRICKET, HE CREATED "4 DOWNS" OF WHICH 3 WERE TO CARRY IT and a FOURTH—IF YOU FANCIED TO KICK IT!

TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hawaiian city
 - 5 California
 - 9 Soups specialty
 - 14 Traverse
 - 18 Kind of energy
 - 20 Footnote word
 - 21 French river
 - 22 Sun up
 - 23 Claim
 - 24 Actor Rob
 - 25 Vamish
 - Innocent
 - 26 Fill with joy
 - 27 — pro cue
 - 28 The works
 - 30 Author Wiesel
 - 32 Program host
 - 34 Isaac West role
 - 35 Actress Mary
 - 38 Fruit beverage
 - 37 Like most models
 - 38 Soap feature
 - 39 Chatter's word
 - 40 Cook's attire
 - 42 California capital
 - 45 Latin word
 - 47 Child's card game
 - 49 — out spend
 - 50 Be present
 - 52 — ease
 - 56 — gn
 - 58 Dutch cheese
 - 61 Arson
 - 62 Of long standing
 - 64 Summa
 - 65 Abel's brother
 - 68 Outspoken
 - 67 Heavenly
 - 68 Author France
 - 70 Filament
 - 71 Wildcat
 - 73 Sliding addition
 - 74 Tail
 - 75 Type of bicycle
 - 77 Inish islands
 - 78 Author Zora
 - 79 Reaction
 - 81 Actress Lori
 - 84 Loss color
- DOWN**
- 1 More religious
 - 2 " — Three Lives"
 - 3 Fall behind
 - 4 Mountain nymph
 - 5 words
 - 6 Commotion
 - 7 Game
 - 8 — Eastward
 - 9 Bog down
 - 10 Mother Gyn
 - 11 Took umbrage at
 - 12 Red shade
 - 13 Translance
 - 14 Canadian Indian
 - 15 Electric unit
 - 16 Florida city
 - 17 Wedding dress fabric
 - 18 Type of wheat
 - 19 Drink nobility
 - 23 Greenish-blue
 - 29 Bandleader Brown
 - 31 Not grown up
 - 33 Greek letter
 - 36 Anecdote collection
 - 37 Con game
 - 38 As a whole
 - 39 Indianapolis team
 - 41 Have debts
 - 43 King of Arden
 - 44 English school
 - 46 Cantal part
 - 48 Property
 - 51 100 cents
 - 53 Long-time inmate
 - 54 Sludgery as
 - 55 London TV
 - 56 Headliner
 - 57 Solitary
 - 58 October birthstone
 - 60 Vegas cube
 - 61 Transparencies
 - 63 Certain portion
 - 65 Pigeon shelter
 - 66 Prohibit
 - 67 Jaunty cap
 - 69 Biblical weed
 - 70 Barber's partner
 - 72 Military student
 - 73 Rich case
 - 76 Pilgrimage
 - 78 Pastly insect
 - 80 Baggage handler
 - 82 Capone's nemesis
 - 83 Ready for business
 - 84 Dismissed (from a job)
 - 85 Game about
 - 86 Playing card
 - 88 As a group
 - 91 Cuckoo-like bird
 - 92 Relate
 - 93 Seed cover
 - 95 Conical dwelling
 - 96 Linen
 - 98 Court
 - 100 Insect stage
 - 102 Harvest
 - 103 Columbian Barret
 - 104 Commuted between New York and Boston
 - 107 Feeder
 - 108 Court
 - 111 Modern prince's domain
 - 112 Tel Aviv native
 - 114 Actress Jillian
 - 115 Cornucopia hat
 - 116 Say in a complaining tone
 - 119 Which person?
 - 121 "Will it play in—"?
 - 122 Stunt
 - 123 Ms. Home
 - 124 Initial
 - 125 Run off to weed
 - 128 Lion trainer
 - 129 Dwarf
 - 131 Refugee
 - 134 Parity
 - 135 Term
 - 136 Mercedes
 - 137 Denomination
 - 139 Hearing organ
 - 141 Lower limb
 - 143 Roster
 - 145 However



Red alert

Changing the balance in Russia

By PETER REDDAWAY

As soon as the early results of the Russian elections of Dec. 17 came in, the American reaction was remarkably sanguine. The day after the clear-cut communist-nationalist victory, White House spokesman Michael McCurry saw "a strong presence in the newly elected Duma of reformers and those committed to democracy and market economics." Michael McFaul of Stanford University, like other Russia experts quoted in the media, held in a New York Times op-ed that "the election was a virtual replay of the voting in 1993" and that the overall balance of seats between hard-liners and reformists "will not change significantly." Moreover, "the electorate... has remained extremely stable in its sentiments."

Now that fuller data are available, it is clear that these commentators were seriously off-base. The results show unambiguously that hard-line forces made big gains; the democratic parties suffered heavy losses; the forces hostile to market reform advanced; and both President Yeltsin and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin were humiliated.

Most of these points are illustrated by the fate of the only two parties of any size that are truly committed to democracy and free markets. Led by the economists Grigory Yavlinsky and Yegor Gaidar, these parties will, pace Mr. McCurry, have only 12 percent of the seats in the new Duma, compared to twice that number after the 1993 election. In terms of the popular vote for parties (as opposed to individual candidates) they did equally poorly. Their combined share of the party vote dropped from 23 percent in 1993 to 10.8 percent.

More broadly, McCurry and McFaul fail to note how, since 1993, the center of gravity of public opinion has moved sharply in the "wrong" direction on key issues. During the election, dominant attitudes among the voters were coolness and even hostility to market reforms and to the West, a desire to reincorporate Russia's neighbors into a new version of the USSR, and a yearning for an "iron hand" at home. To Russians, this term means a moderately authoritarian rule to deal with crime, corruption and the impoverishment of half the population. In my opinion, such rule would inevitably - even though many voters do not as yet say they want this - put an end to much of what is now left of Russian democracy.

What is the likely new balance of forces in the Duma? To date, we know for sure the party affiliation of 373 of the 450 deputies. Politically, they fall into four categories. The first two are generally authoritarian and anti-Western in tendency: the communists, who with the Agrarians will have about 178 seats,

and the hard-line nationalists, who will have about 67. Third come the centrists, most of whom have shown scant interest in democracy but a strong commitment to political elitism and economic power for themselves. They will have about 65 seats. And fourth are the democrats, who will have about 63. This would give the hard-liners an advantage on political issues of about 245 to 128 over the combined centrists and democrats. The hard-liners, of course, are likely to prove almost as disunited as their notoriously fractious opponents. This is because 51 of them belong to the ultra-nationalist party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who has never been interested in making a stable coalition with any other party.

The remaining 77 deputies are independents. Preliminary indications suggest that those who will align with the above groupings (and not just represent special interests) will change the balance only a little. So the Duma should have roughly this political coloration: about 16 percent democratic (half of the 1993 figure), 45 percent communist (twice the 1993 figure), 15 percent hard-line nationalist, 19 percent centrist and 5 percent special interests and "other."

If we narrow the focus to look at parties' policies on foreign affairs, especially at whether they favor Russia's integration into Western security systems, or, alternatively, a return to Soviet-style superpower aspirations, the result is similar. While the views of a few deputies cannot yet be gauged, some 62 percent of those who can be categorized appear to fall in the latter camp, and only about 17 percent in the former (with the remainder in the middle). This represents a swing of over 20 percent in the anti-Western direction, compared to 1993.

A third categorization of the new Duma in terms mainly of deputies' attitudes to economic reform is not encouraging either. Developed by a leading Russian analyst of election results, Alexander Sobyazanin, and a colleague, Vladislav Sukhovolsky, it finds that only 16 percent of the deputies strongly favor market reform, 24 percent are "centrists" and almost 60 percent prefer a heavily socialized economy - compared to a mere 40 percent in 1993.

In the near term, Yeltsin may well try to appease the voters with some cabinet changes. But even if he doesn't, no major political upheavals are likely before the spring, because the Duma's powers are too limited.

If Yeltsin were to use one of these pretexts without the consent of a majority of the Duma - a contingency that Russians (though not Western wishful thinkers) take seriously - he would be tearing up the Constitution. Politics would then become even more unstable than they are now. But he may not want to run such an enormous risk.

Whatever happens, though, Washington needs to recognize last month's Duma elections as another serious setback to its own hopes and to revise its strategy accordingly. First, the U.S. should stop taking sides in Russia's internal politics.

Second, we should start to prepare seriously for dealing with a Russia run increasingly by communists and nationalists. The shift may be sudden or gradual, and may also be accompanied by the appearance of Yeltsin Mark 5, restyled as a nationalist and authoritarian. All this requires of the U.S. serious efforts to get to know and understand the opposition leaders.

Third, the administration should also admit that several years of IMF-directed attempts at macroeconomic stabilization have not worked. Something is fundamentally wrong when the IMF is pumping into Russia billions of dollars in loans, but sums from twice to 10 times as large (depending on whose estimate is correct) are simultaneously leaving the country in capital flight. The clue lies in the miserably low level of domestic and foreign direct investment. These are held down by investors' deep uncertainties about ownership rights, taxation policies, organized crime, potential renationalization of privatized assets and general political instability. The U.S. needs to decide that it is healthier for the Russians to be allowed to make their own economic policy, even if it includes many mistakes, with ourselves playing non-directive, supporting roles.

Fourth, the U.S. should stop soft-pedaling on the Russian war in Chechnya. The administration's support for the Russian invasion in December 1994 will go down as a shameful day in the history of American diplomacy. But ever since the support was toned down two weeks later, the U.S. has been unwilling to exert serious pressure on Yeltsin to end a war of awful savagery which, from the first day, has undermined Russia's democracy, sapped its economy and dismayed most of its people.

And fifth, the administration needs to realize that the Russian state is now so weak that organized crime and corruption will go on flourishing, and order will not be restored, for an unknown number of years - years in which many unpredictable things will happen. This puts a premium on such policy issues as the Mafia, refugees and peacekeeping, and on planning for a wide range of contingencies not just in Russia, but in much of eastern Eurasia. Dec. 17 was a clear warning shot. It's time for the West to stop covering its ears.

Peter Reddaway is professor of political science at George Washington University.

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The president is not above the law

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

In a ringing proclamation elevating the right of an individual to redress legal grievances above the power of the president to be immune from civil liability for unofficial acts, the United States Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit has reversed a lower court order which had delayed the trial of Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton until his presidency is completed. A divided court began its analysis with a recognition that our Constitution "did not create a monarchy." Instead, it established a system under which every individual - president and pauper alike - "is subject to the same laws that apply to all other members of society." Accordingly, Paula Jones' federal lawsuit should proceed as any other private lawsuit would, without regard to the high elective office which the defendant now holds.

Well, not quite. The Court of Appeals went out of its way to make it clear that the trial court should schedule the case - both in its pre-trial and trial phases - with sensitivity "to the burdens of the presidency and the demands of the president's schedule." What this means is that the case will - in practice, though not in theory - proceed on the president's schedule and not on Paula Jones' schedule. It also means that if the president exercises his right to seek rehearing before the entire 8th Circuit bench and to seek a writ of certiorari from the United States Supreme Court, even if he loses - which he probably will - the case will not really begin until after the election in November. This, by itself, is a political victory for the president, because it will mean that no damaging disclosures will be leaked during the campaign. That is probably why the president appealed the trial court's earlier ruling, which delayed the trial itself until after his presidency, but allowed pre-trial discovery to proceed immediately.

Politics aside, the majority decision is correct in principle. It is important for the courts to come down on the side of individual rights when they are pitted against presidential prerogative. Whatever one may think of the credibility and merits of Paula Jones' factual allegations - and I do not put much stock in them - they raise important legal concerns under our civil rights laws. Hers is not a mere run-of-the-mill tort suit, involving private parties - as an automobile accident case would be. She is alleging an abuse of power by a state governor committed under color of law. Congress has legislated a special civil rights cause of action for such claims, recognizing the important public interest involved in holding those in power accountable for private abuses committed under the authority of public trust.

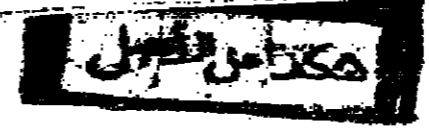
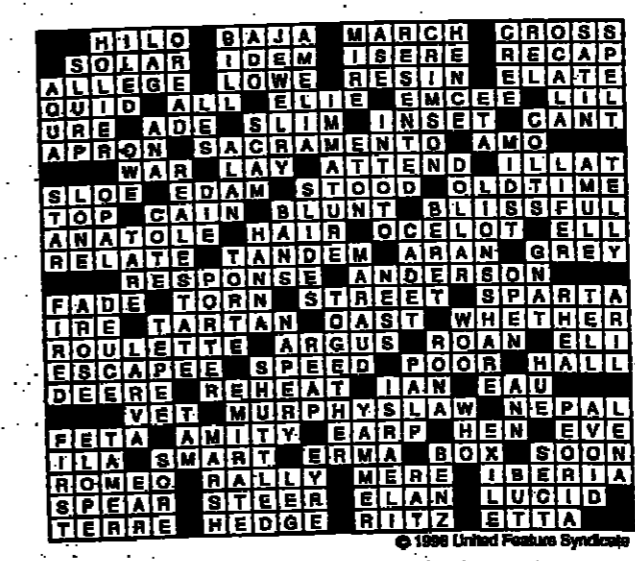
If the court of appeals had sided with the president in this case and granted him blanket immunity against all civil actions during his presidency, it would have created a dangerous and over broad precedent. The president already has immunity to protect him from lawsuits growing out of his official actions as president. It would strike an improper balance to extend that immunity to personal actions as well. For example, if President Clinton were to have actually punched columnist William Safire in the nose, as he quite understandably wanted to do, he should have no immunity from that unpresidential, but very human, act. In this case - if Paula Jones is to be believed, as she must be for purposes of deciding whether she has a right to try to prove her case in court - Bill Clinton is accused of even more serious conduct.

Not even the president is claiming that he should be permanently immune from suit for his unofficial actions. He, and the dozens of law professors who filed an amicus curiae brief on his behalf, are seeking temporary but total immunity from all suits being conducted during his incumbency as president, even from those resulting from alleged acts committed before he became president. But justice delayed is justice denied, since delay is almost always a victory for the defendant. Witnesses could become unavailable, or forgetful, and the plaintiff, who bears the burden of proof, generally suffers most from long delay. Also, if either the plaintiff or the defendant were to die before the lawsuit were concluded, the cause of action could disappear under Arkansas law.

All in all, the court of appeals struck the proper balance. It reaffirmed the principle of equal rights for all under our law, while recognizing the reality that the president is different and that his schedule must be accorded special deference. The decision vindicates the rule of law, while reflecting the role of common sense.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are "The Advocate's Devil" (Warner Books) and "The Abuse Excuse" (Little, Brown & Company).

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Stocks close higher UK shares end mixed

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks shot higher Friday in reaction to strong earnings reports, despite a mixed reading on the economy that sent bond prices lower. On the Wall Street, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks was up 60.33 to finish at 5,184.68.

front of that," Brown said. The Dow industrials were led higher by IBM, up more than 6 points near the close. The computer giant on Thursday posted a 41-percent gain in fourth-quarter earnings.

LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares finished mixed today as investors decided to take a breather after a frantic week which saw UK and European interest rates fall, but the FTSE index was only a fraction below all-time record highs. The FTSE 100, which set an all-time high yesterday after a 45-point rise, closed down just 0.3 points at 3,748.4 a gain of 91.1 on the week.

TOKYO - Tokyo shares ended flat, with index-linked buying and bargain-hunting making up for weak bank shares amid uncertainties over the problem of housing loan firms ahead of a parliament session starting next week.

\$ up ahead of G7 meeting CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar rose against most major currencies Friday as traders dumped the German mark ahead of this weekend's Group of Seven meeting where Europe's slowing economies will be the focus.

Figures released Friday showing steady unemployment in the US supported expectations that European central bankers would lower rates sooner than the US Federal Reserve.

Market shifts focus to corporations

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Washington can't stop bickering about the budget? We'll just take our ball to another park. That's what Wall Street seemed to say this past week, as investors drove stock prices sharply higher, even in the face of further deterioration in budget negotiations.

Concerns about the moribund talks have not vanished. But they have "shifted to the back burner," said John Cleland, chief investment strategist at Security Benefit Group of Companies, based in Topeka, Kansas.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with columns for Patah (foreign currency deposit rates), Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates, and Banknotes. Includes sub-sections for Currency basket, Checks and Transfers, and Banknotes.

"A fax for you" advertisement. Text: "All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes. 15 minutes and you're in." Includes logo for Israel Discount Bank.

Table of Labor rates. Columns: Labor rate, Last Change. Rows include various labor categories like 3 months, 6 months, 9 months, 12 months.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Includes text: "Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds 34 Ben Yehuda St. Jerusalem. Tel. 02-244963, 03-6758826 Fax. 02-244678"

Table of US commodities. Columns: Commodity, Last Change. Rows include Sugar, Coffee, Soybean, Wheat, Corn, etc.

Table of London commodities. Columns: Commodity, Last Change. Rows include Cocoa, Cotton, Lard, etc.

Table of Spot market metals (US). Columns: Metal, Last Change. Rows include Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

Table of New York metal futures. Columns: Metal, Last Change. Rows include Gold, Silver, Platinum, etc.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices. Columns: Name, Price, Change. Rows include companies from various countries like Canada, Europe, Asia, etc.

MUTUAL FUNDS

Table of Mutual Funds. Columns: Fund's name, Assets, Net Assets, Monthly Yield, etc. Includes sub-sections for Flexible and Shares.

Table of Shares. Columns: Share name, Price, Change. Rows include various share classes and funds.

Table of State Bonds. Columns: Bond name, Price, Change. Rows include various state government bonds.

Table of Company Bonds. Columns: Bond name, Price, Change. Rows include various corporate bonds.

Table of Foreign Currency. Columns: Currency, Price, Change. Rows include various international currencies.

Table of Mixed. Columns: Item, Price, Change. Rows include various miscellaneous items.

CLASSICAL MUSIC advertisement. Includes text: "The Jerusalem Post CLASSICAL MUSIC".

